GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3071
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
SEIZURE OF DRUGS
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL;JASKAUR MEENA;RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of narcotics is going on in the country on the large scale;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of narcotics seized by the Government during the last three years;

(d) the number of persons arrested for being involved in the smuggling of narcotics; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb smuggling of narcotics drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b) Drug smuggling and trafficking is a clandestine activity and it is impossible to accurately assess the scale of smuggling. However, the quantity of drugs seized by enforcement agencies can be used in assessing the magnitude of the illegal activity. India accounts for 1.62 % of the world`s seizures. The major threat of drug trafficking in India arises from its proximity to South East Asia and South West Asia. Good air linkage with other countries also make India vulnerable to drug trafficking.

(c) & (d) : Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists, no precise valuation can be made. However, the total quantity of drug seizures in 1999 and 2000 of Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone and Ephedrine, LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. The total number of persons arrested in 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30thJune 2001, were 13490 and 15065 respectively.

(e) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemicals viz. Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as `Controlled Substances` under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, signing of a bilateral agreement with Pakistan to hold periodic meetings at Secretary level and Director General level, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, signing of a bilateral agreement with Myanmar,holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs to Myanmar and training dog handlers of Myanmar.